

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 37 are in this application and are presented for consideration. Claims 1 and 15 have been amended.

The specification and claims have been amended to address the Examiner's rejections, to place this application in better form, and in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter.

In particular claims 1 and 15 have been amended to change the phrase "closing and/or hooking up station" to "closing station". The specification has been correspondingly amended to indicate that the structure 400 in the drawings can be given either the name "closing station" and/or the name "hooking up station". If the Examiner has any suggestions for an alternate name for this station, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative by telephone to discuss possible changes.

Claim 15 has been rejected with regard to the phrase "upon removal of the latter" as being confusing as to the element being referenced. Applicant has amended claim 15 to indicate that the element being referenced is the tubular knitted article. It is Applicant's position that claim 15, as amended, is clear. Applicant notes that a similar phrase is present in claim 1. If the Examiner feels that this phrase in claim 1 is also confusing, claim 1 can also be amended similarly to claim 15.

Applicant again thanks the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which would further favorable prosecution of this

application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative by telephone to discuss possible changes.

It is Applicant's position that this application is now in conformance with U.S. Patent regulations, and Applicant respectfully requests that this application be passed to allowance.

Favorable action on the merits of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted
for Applicant,



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SHOULD ANY OTHER FEE BE REQUIRED, THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE IS HEREBY REQUESTED TO CHARGE SUCH FEE TO OUR DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 13-0410.